

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. For at least the reasons stated below, Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

Examiner has objected to various drawings under 37 CFR §§ 1.84(p)(4), 1.84(p)(5). In light of the amendments to the specification and drawings, Applicants respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

Figures 2, 13, 16, 17, 19 were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) for including reference signs (235, 1312, 1670, 1680, 1690, 1695, 1697, 1770, 1940, and 1960) not mentioned in the specification. Applicants have amended the specification to ensure that each of the above-referenced signs are included in the specification.

Figure 14B was object to under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(4) for using a reference character (1430) to designate two different elements. Applicants have amended Figure 14B to ensure that each element has a unique reference character.

Figures 7B and 20 were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.84(p)(5) for failing to include reference signs (270, 2070 and also 721, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, and 738) mentioned in the description. As to reference signs 270 and 2070, which were mentioned in the description, the specification has been amended to remove such mention. As to reference signs 721, 722, 724, 726, 728, 730, 732, 734, 736, and 738, Figure 7B has been amended to include these reference signs.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the objections as to the drawings be removed.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Examiner has objected to the disclosure for the following informality: “on page 28, third paragraph, the applicant is suggested to illustrate difference between ‘list of sessions’ 104 and ‘list of sessions’ 106.” Given the reference to page 28, Applicants assume that Examiner is referring to “list of sessions” 704 and “list of sessions” 706. In light of the amendments to page 28, which illustrate the relationship between “list of sessions 704” and “sessions 706,” Applicants respectfully request that the objections as to the specification be removed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moran et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,018,346). The cited reference does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations as required by MPEP § 2143. Therefore, this rejection is inappropriate and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejection.

The present invention generally provides for a method for listing activities in a graphical user interface in a collaborative work tool framework comprising the steps of:

- (a) displaying an activity window having activity start data, activity duration data, and an activity status data;
- (b) defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window; and
- (c) determining a status for the defined activity based on activity start data for the defined activity and activity duration data for the defined activity.

Because the *Moran* reference does not teach or suggest every element of every claim, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

- (a) The Reference Fails to Teach or Suggest Defining and Displaying an Activity in Response to a User Selection and Determining a Status for the Activity

Claims 1-20 recite, *inter alia*, "defining an activity in response to user selection of a define activity button, wherein the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window." Specifically, the defined activity is displayed in an activity window "having activity start data, activity duration data, and an activity status data," and a status is determined for the defined activity based on the start data and duration data. *Moran* fails to teach or suggest at least this limitation, as required by MPEP § 2143.

The *Moran* reference describes meeting support objects for supporting meeting objectives, where meeting support objects are representations of dynamic information used for various activities performed in meetings. *See*, Abstract. Moreover, the reference specifically enumerates different types of domain object classes, such as persons, agenda items, and cost items, that are used in the meetings. *See*, Col. 13, line 50–Col. 14, line 17.

In the Office Action, the § 103 rejection asserts that *Moran* describes displaying an activity window with start data, duration data, and activity status data at Col. 18, line 33–Col. 19, line 54 and in Figures 20-22. The *Moran* reference discloses an agenda with agenda item icons 2001-2006. *See*, Col. 18, lines 33-34, Figs. 20-22. Examiner asserts that the agenda teaches the activity window claimed in the present invention and that the various agenda item icons teach the start data, activity data, and status data.

The disclosure of *Moran* describes an agenda as an ordered list of agenda item domain objects. See, Col. 18, lines 25-32. Further, the disclosure of Figures 20-22 illustrate such agenda items as "Report from the staff meeting" and provides for a status of such agenda items, namely the "status attribute," which encodes the status attribute of the agenda item. See, Figs. 20-22; Col. 18, lines 41-64. Accordingly, it is clear that the elements of the *Moran* reference that are alleged in the Office Action to teach the "activity" claimed in the present invention are a specific type of domain object described by *Moran*, namely agenda items.

In stark contrast, the reference fails to teach or suggest defining an activity—or an "agenda item domain object"—in response to user selection of a define activity button, as claimed. Specifically, the rejection asserts that "it is clear that *Moran* defines an activity in response to a user selection of a define activity button, where the defined activity is thereafter displayed in the activity window...as described in Col. 16, lines 43-67 as seen in Figure 15, reference #1501-1503." However, the objects being defined and categorized in the *Moran* reference are actually cost item domain objects and not agenda item domain objects. See, Col. 16, lines 43-67 (where *Moran* describes that "each cost item has a category number, which is understood by the meeting participants (e.g. capital expense, operating expense, etc.)..."). Nowhere does the *Moran* reference teach or suggest defining an activity—an element which is alleged to be taught by cost item domain objects—in response to selection of a button. Rather, *Moran* only describes categories for a distinct domain object, namely the cost item domain object. However, cost item domain objects, which are illustrated in Figures 14-15, are not present in the agenda, which is illustrated in Figures 20-22. The cost items also do not have a determined status.

Further, there is no suggestion or motivation to modify the *Moran* reference to teach the present claimed invention. The reference clearly enumerates the various domain objects, such as agenda items and cost items, as distinct elements serving distinct purposes. See, Col. 13, line 50–Col. 14, line 17. The types of functionality associated with an agenda item—such as representing a topic for a meeting and including attributes such as a topic, a discussant, and a time allocation—are inconsistent and incompatible with the types of functionality associated with a cost item—such as representing an item that has a cost and including attributes such as name and cost. *Id.* Thus, there is no suggestion or motivation to impose any of the operations suggested for the cost item domain objects onto the agenda item domain objects.

For at least these reasons, the cited reference fails to teach or suggest every element of claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-19, and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

(b) The References Further Fail to Teach or Suggest Every Element of Claims 6, 13, and 20

Claims 6, 13, and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moran and Salas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,230,185). The cited references, each alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the claim limitations as required by MPEP § 2143. Therefore, this rejection is inappropriate and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the § 103 rejection.

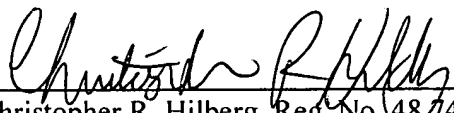
Claims 6, 13, and 20 include all of the limitations of the respective independent claims from which they depend. As described above, the *Moran* reference fails to teach or suggest each of the limitations of those independent claims 1, 8, and 15. Moreover, nowhere does the *Salas* reference teach those limitations from claims 1, 8, and 15 that are not taught by *Moran* nor does the *Salas* reference suggest modifying the *Moran* reference to incorporate those limitations.

For at least this additional reason, the cited references, each alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest every element of claims 6, 13, and 20, and Applicants respectfully request that Examiner's § 103 rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (612) 607-7386. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees including fees for any extension of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-1901 (Reference 60021-356301).

Respectfully submitted,

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